

Bengaluru NavaNirmanana Party (BNP)

NEWSLETTER



19th Edition - December 2023 Roundup

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MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER

Dear Bengalurigas,

BBMP has recently proposed the introduction of a Solid Waste Management User Fee, over and above the Property Tax, SWM Cess and other cesses currently being collected from us. Before BBMP charges us any additional fees, are we not entitled to know how much money is spent annually and on what exactly it is being spent? After all, this is our hard-earned money, paid as Property Taxes and various levies.

Do you know how much money BBMP spends annually for the maintenance of various civic amenities? We are not talking about grand infrastructure projects, but just the maintenance of everyday essentials such as roads, footpaths, drains, lakes, trees, potholes, streetlights, and the like. The staggering answer is ₹10,000 crores per annum (i.e. 10000000000. 1 with 11 zeros in the number!)

Does our city look like so much money has been spent on it? Clearly not. So, where is this money going? The reality is that there is a total lack of accountability and transparency in expenditure, while allegations of corruption, mismanagement, and fund diversion persist. The audited accounts give only the bare-bone minimum information without any details or schedules, while there is absolutely no publicly available information on the thousands of approved projects undertaken every year.

At BNP, we are re-initiating our flagship campaign called '**Lekka Beku**' (which we ran about two years back) to demand transparency and accountability from BBMP. As part of this, BNP is going to fight strongly against any extra levies by BBMP in the form of user fees, cesses or increased property tax, till there is full transparency regarding the existing funds collected from us, Bengalurigas.

We have two simple demands: Firstly, BBMP's accounts properly audited, with detailed reports, schedules, and internal audits to be made available in the public domain, just like publicly listed companies. Secondly, details of all approved projects over the last 10 years to be displayed on the BBMP website. As you might be aware, BNP has already extracted such detailed information from the BBMP system from 2015 to 2020, revealing 63,629 projects worth ₹ 21,653 cr. If BNP can reveal so much information, why can't BBMP do so?

Bengaluru, it's time for a change. Join the **Lekka Beku** campaign! Let us take the first step towards good governance, accountability, and a brighter future for our beloved city. Stay tuned for more on this important campaign in the coming weeks!

As always, I am happy to receive inputs and feedback from you at srikanth.narasimhan1975@gmail.com

SRIKANTH NARASIMHAN, Founder
Bengaluru NavaNirmanana Party (BNP)

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CAMPAIGN UPDATES (Developments on BNP's Ongoing Central Campaigns)

STEP TOWARDS TRANSPARENCY



The Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP) has always held that there should be greater transparency in civic affairs. Taking a firm step in this direction, **BNP Founder and General Secretary Srikanth Narasimhan** and **Governing Council Members and Zonal Leaders Lalithamba B V and Poongothai Paramasivam** met Special Commissioner of Finance Sri. Shivananda on 8th December 2023. They requested him to share the following financial details on the new Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) website:

- Annual audit report with information presented at least upto Level 2 or Level 3
- List of all project payment details undertaken by BBMP, and
- BBMP budget details for the last 5 years till 2023-24.

Sri. Shivananda will be discussing BNP's request with the BBMP Chief Commissioner Sri. Tushar Girinath. BNP will be following up this matter very closely. Mounting public pressure will help to bring more transparency in BBMP accounts.

IMPLEMENTING GOVERNMENT ORDER

Although a Government Order (GO) has been passed to correct discrepancies in the Property Tax Zonal Classification and provide relief to affected taxpayers, no implementation has happened. As this situation is totally unacceptable, the BNP team comprising Srikanth Narasimhan, Lalithamba B V and Poongothai Paramasivam met Special Commissioner (Revenue) Sri. Munish Moudgil on 8th December 2023 and urged speedy implementation of this GO. Until this is implemented, affected taxpayers are left in a state of uncertainty and at risk of being penalised unfairly.

RENEWING A FLAGSHIP CAMPAIGN

As indicated in the Founder's Message, the time is right to restart BNP's earlier flagship campaign 'Lekka Beku' to push for full accountability from BBMP. The BNP has raised serious objections to the imposition of any extra levies by BBMP, whether it is the newly proposed Solid Waste Management (SWM) user fee, or any other cess, without full public disclosure regarding existing funds collected from taxpayers. BBMP's fully audited accounts, with details of all approved projects over the last 10 years should be disclosed on the BBMP website. The BBMP spends a massive ₹10,000 crores per annum just for regular maintenance of basic civic amenities. And yet, many parts of the city are obviously suffering from neglect and disrepair. In the absence of accountability and transparency, public perceptions of mismanagement and misguided use of funds will remain. Join the Lekka Beku campaign to promote effective governance and make Bengaluru a well-administered city.



AREA SABHA ACTIVITIES (Local civic issues addressed by BNP)

Cable Wires



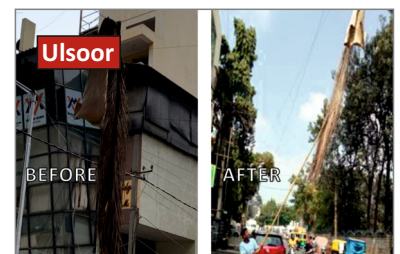
Multiple cables were seen hanging from the tree opposite to the White House (next to HSR Layout BDA Complex) on 14th Main Road, in Ibluru. After multiple follow ups by the BNP Team, the hanging cables from the tree were removed. This is just one example. BNP will continue to work with the BBMP to remove

more risky cables at the Ward Level.

Civic Warrior Sai Jayanth K Nair reported that there was a coconut tree leaf hanging on a cable right in the middle of Cambridge road, Ulsoor, opposite the Lourdes Boys School. He said that it had been there for more than 2 weeks and nobody had taken any action. The issue was resolved in 2 days.

Roads

In October, Civic Warrior Rajesh Subramanian of Jogupalya, reported the danger of the potholes near the BWSSB Water tank on 10th Main, 1st Cross, Indiranagar 2nd Stage. BNP Member Shruthi kept following up this issue with the Assistant Engineer (AE) and it got resolved.



Street Lights

Rajesh also brought to the notice of the BNP, the risk of accidents due to the lack of street lights on 2nd Cross Rd, Binnamangala, Indiranagar 1st Stage. Shruthi followed up with the concerned officials and got the street lights fixed.



In Somasundarapalya Main Road, Ibluru, it was found that multiple street lights were not working. BNP members followed up with the BBMP and the street light contractor visited the spot and fixed the problem. Street lights are functional now.



A total lack of street lights was reported at a stretch of Sarjapur Road, Doddakanahalli, by Civic Warrior Gurudayal. This was resolved by the BNP team coordinating with the relevant BESCO officials.

Garbage



Lalithamba B V found that an old and unused BESCO transformer pole was left on the footpath at Kasavanahalli in Ibluru. Rusted parts made it difficult to be moved and parked vehicles made it difficult for the crane to lift the pole. But, finally it was cleared. We sincerely thank BESCO officials for their support.

Rajesh Subramanian had reported the issue of garbage piling up over

trimmed branches that were left on the pavement on 1st A Cross Road. The issue was resolved after Shruthi continued to follow up with the concerned Junior Health Inspector (JHI).



In Ibluru, Civic Warrior Ravichandra reported that opposite to Powersports, on 27th Main Road, Sector 2, HSR Layout, Ibluru, a whole stretch of about 100 metres of the pavement was being used to dump garbage. The place smelt foul as a result. The BNP Team



followed up with the BBMP SWM team and got the garbage cleared.

Drainage/Sewage



In September, Civic Warrior Surojit Roy had reported that a drainage cover was missing for over two months, at the entrance of Rukmani Colony, Annaswami Mudaliar Road, Ulsoor. After multiple follow ups by Shruthi with the relevant BBMP Ward Engineer, the issue finally got resolved on 5th December.

Civic Warrior Anupama reported drainage/unprocessed water being flushed out onto the 1st Main Rd, Sapthagiri Nagar, Hosakerehalli, causing a lot of infection and foul smell, hurting people and animals all around the locality. The issue was cleared.

Parks

Civic Warrior Hania Kalim brought up the issue of swarms of large mosquitoes in Sd Clarence Park, Anthappa Layout, J. P. Nagar, 4th Phase. Guided by BNP, she connected with the BBMP Team responsible for fogging/spraying. The BBMP team responded positively within a day and sprayed the area to deal with the mosquito issue.



Thanks to all our Civic Warriors for making their neighbourhoods and our city a better place.

Do you want to be a Civic Warrior in your area? The best way to be someone who is part of the solution is to join the BNP Area Sabha in your neighbourhood. These Area Sabhas meet to take up, discuss and address civic issues in the local area. To join, Whatsapp +91 8095130000 today!

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS (Pick of Special BNP Activities)

INNER WORKINGS OF BBMP

To understand the inner workings of the BBMP, Srikanth Narasimhan, Lalithamba B V and Poongothai Paramasivam met a number of officials at BBMP headquarters on 15th December, 2023.

In a marathon series of meetings, they interacted with the following officials:

- Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) Managing Director Sri. Basavaraj Kabade provided insight on BSWML's formation, operation and upcoming changes in SWM and collection.
- BBMP Horticulture Deputy Director Sri. Chandrashekar H. R. explained the roles and responsibilities of this department. BNP made many practical suggestions: to display the park maintenance team's contact information; extend the open hours for parks; and, to include parks and road medians that missed out on annual maintenance and beautification, within the scope of BBMP's regular maintenance work.
- BBMP Forest Department Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) Sri. Ranganatha Swamy highlighted the roles and responsibilities of this department. The BNP team discussed a range of issues including plantation, maintenance, watering, tree-trimming, tree-cutting and requested support to resolve the issue of monkeys running rampant in certain parts of the city.
- The BNP team submitted a letter to BBMP Special Commissioner Finance requesting the Detailed Annual Report.
- BBMP Advertisements Department Assistant Commissioner Sri. Sreedhara Murthy J. B shared the hierarchy to be followed in raising concerns regarding illegal posters/banners at the Zonal level.
- BBMP Tobacco and Mental Health Dept officials also shared information regarding their respective roles and responsibilities in dealing with the issues under their purview.
- BBMP IT head Sri. Prabhakar assured the BBMP team of updating BBMP website with Zonal level/Ward level contacts at the earliest. The team is currently working to link the contacts in Sahaaya app to the updated contact details in the website. BNP has requested the department to share all updates only in the new BBMP websites and also to migrate the old website details to the new website.
- Details of the meeting with BBMP Revenue official regarding Property Tax GO has been mentioned earlier under 'Implementing Government Order'
- The BNP team also requested the BBMP Administration section to share updated official department-wise contacts to the IT team in order to periodically update these details on the BBMP website.



The BNP team came away from these meetings with a clearer understanding of the roles and responsibilities of various BBMP departments and whom to approach to resolve specific issues.

BNP GROUND REPORT (Round-up of BNP's Regular Work)

VOTE4BENGALURU (Voter ID Drives)

BNP conducted 2 Voter ID Drives conducted in December. Both were conducted in the Ibluru Ward. The first one at Sobha Jasmine, was conducted on 3rd December 2023 and generated over 25 registrations. BNP Members Kshama, Jeevan and



Deepti, and Lalithamba B V supported the voter registration process. The second one was at Sai Poorna Luxuria. Thanks to BNP Members Jaya Simha and Jeevan, and Lalithamba B V there were over 20 registrations and also discussions on BNP, Area Sabhas, Ward Committee Meetings, resolving civic issues and so on.



Note: 12th December 2023 was the last date to check if your name appears on the Electoral Rolls for the upcoming 2024 elections. You can still choose to register as a new Voter for elections that will come up in the following years. Please refer to Voter Portal User Guide on our website [HERE](#)

If you stay in a layout or apartment complex and want to arrange a voter registration camp, simply give a missed call to BNP on **080-47190000** OR send an email to **voters@nammabnp.org**

Let's Vote for Bengaluru!

Namma Samiti (Ward Committee Meetings)

BNP Members attended a Ward Committee meeting at AECS Layout Ward with Ward Engineer. It was of note that there was no Nodal Officer or BWSSB team, etc., so it was more of a courtesy meeting than a productive one, with residents and their grievances just heard, with no review of prior issues or updates.



Area Sabha Meetings (Local Level Community Meetings)



On 16th December 2023, Srikanth Narasimhan and Lalithamba B V attended a Ward Committee Meeting at Manar Elegance in Ibluru Ward. They discussed Area Sabhas, and how citizens could participate to use this new BNP system to go about resolving more civic issues. Discussions also included the need and ways to spread the message to hundreds of other people in each area.

SPOTLIGHT ON: NADAPRABHU KEMPEGOWDA

An in-Depth Focus Article by **Rishi Raghavan**

BNP Governing Council Member, Head of the Youth Wing

1. Who was Kempegowda? What was his origin and ancestry?

Kempegowda, also known as Hiriya Kempegowda, was a prominent chief under the Vijayanagara Empire during the 16th century. He hailed from the Vokkaliga community, an agrarian group in Karnataka. His lineage, the Yelahanka Prabhu clan, had a history of service to the Vijayanagara rulers. His father, Kempananje Gowda, acquired significant territories and was influential in the region. This lineage and the support from the Vijayanagara Empire were instrumental in Kempegowda's rise to power.

2. What do we know about Kempegowda's family and community?

The Vokkaliga community, to which Kempegowda belonged, was primarily an agricultural group with a significant role in the socio-economic fabric of the region. The community is known for its strong ties to the land and its contribution to agriculture. Kempegowda's family was part of this community, and their administrative and military skills were notable.

3. What do we know about his childhood years? What were the traits he exhibited as a youngster?

While specific details of Kempegowda's early life are scarce, historical accounts and folklore suggest that he was a dynamic and intelligent child with a deep interest in the affairs of his territory. He likely received training in administration and military tactics, which were crucial for leaders of his time.

4. How long did he reign? What were the defining characteristics of his reign?

Kempegowda took over Yelahanka from his father in 1513 and ruled for about five decades. His administration was marked by a progressive vision, focus on urban planning, emphasis on social welfare, and the development of infrastructure. He is credited with establishing a well-organised administrative system and promoting a harmonious multi-ethnic society.

5. What led him to envision the creation of Bengaluru?

Kempegowda envisioned Bengaluru as a grand and well-planned city. Inspired by the flourishing cities under the Vijayanagara Empire, he wanted to create a city that would be a hub for trade, culture, and governance. His vision was to establish a city that was not only prosperous but also had a strong cultural and social structure.

6. How and when did he establish Bengaluru? How did he expand and develop the city?

Bengaluru was established around 1537. Kempegowda strategically chose a location conducive to trade, with ample water supply and fertile land. He designed the city with a fort, temples, and marketplaces, and well-laid out roads and residential areas. He also expanded the city by building new fortifications and enhancing its infrastructure.

7. What were the obstacles he faced? How did he overcome these challenges?

Kempegowda faced various challenges, including resistance from local chieftains, management of existing resources, and dealing with geographical constraints. He tackled these through diplomatic negotiations, effective resource management, and strategic military actions when necessary.

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8. What measures did Kempegowda undertake to make Bengaluru a model city?

Kempegowda took several significant steps to make Bengaluru a model city. This included the construction of a robust fort, well-laid out roads, organised marketplaces, and residential areas. He also established temples and public utilities, which were crucial for its socio-cultural development.

9. How did Kempegowda patronise arts and learning?

He was a patron of arts and culture, encouraging various forms of art, literature, and traditional crafts. He supported the construction of temples, which became centres for cultural activities and learning.

10. What did Kempegowda do to encourage trade and develop commerce?

Kempegowda established several marketplaces (petes) and promoted trade routes, ensuring safety and infrastructure for traders. This significantly boosted trade and commerce in the region.

11. What are the temples and monuments that Kempegowda built?

Notable temples and monuments commissioned by Kempegowda include the Bull Temple, Gavi Gangadhareshwara temple, and several others, which played a pivotal role in the cultural and religious life of the city.

12. How did Kempegowda ensure water supply to Bengaluru? What was his role in building reservoirs and preserving lakes in the city?

Kempegowda built a network of tanks and reservoirs like Kempambudhi and Dharmambudhi tanks, ensuring a steady water supply for agriculture and the city's needs, revealing great foresight in urban planning and sustainability.

13. What were the ways in which Kempegowda promoted agriculture, horticulture and orchards?

Kempegowda promoted agriculture and horticulture, encouraging the cultivation of various crops and the planting of fruit trees, which helped in the sustainable development of the region's agrarian economy.

14. Why is Kempegowda known as "Nadaprabhu". What are the honours bestowed upon him?

Kempegowda was honoured with the title "Nadaprabhu" for his exemplary governance, visionary leadership, and contributions to society. This title reflects his status as a respected and influential ruler of his time.

15. Why is Kempegowda's vision for Bengaluru relevant even today?

Kempegowda's vision and approach towards urban planning, sustainable development, and socio-cultural welfare hold significant relevance today. His principles of city planning, emphasis on trade, culture, and sustainable practices continue to inspire modern urban development strategies. His legacy is particularly relevant in the context of Bengaluru's growth as a major global city.

16. How does BNP work towards achieving the far-sighted vision of our beloved Nadaprabhu?

BNP's call to action is "Let's Rebuild Bengaluru." Our larger vision for the city is to rebuild it, brick by brick, in accordance with Kempegowda's ideal objectives. In today's practical world, you need power and authority to transform a city through good governance. Hence, our chosen mode of achieving this vision is to contest the BBMP election and elect qualified, compassionate, and civic-minded citizens into the city corporation. With committed people, the right policies and effective actions – we are confident that Bengaluru can indeed become the model city of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda's dreams.



MEDIA CONNECT (BNP's interactions with the media)

Press Releases

On 3rd December 2023, BNP issued a Press Release (PR) opposing the SWM User Fee mooted by the BBMP, calling first for transparency on the amounts collected and spent by the BBMP. As Poongothai Paramasivam said "...The BBMP should first provide detailed information on how funds are being allocated across different sectors... The lack of clarity on financial matters has been a longstanding issue, and transparency a prerequisite before any new user fees are imposed".

The second PR, released on 5th, brought attention to how the blame game between civic authorities results in a mess for the public. This PR refers to the 24th Main Road connecting Bommanahalli and Kudlu Gate in Somasundarapalya, HSR Layout. This stretch has been left in a dire state after BESCOM dug it up for cable laying purposes. Instead of promptly restoring the road, the authorities have left behind a hazardous pothole.

The enforcement of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) Bill that was approved last year is still pending, even though the legislation mandated the notification and establishment of the Authority within six months of the Act's commencement. BNP in its 4th PR for December released on 9th, emphasised that the BMLTA bill is a crucial initial step in addressing traffic issues and urged the swift implementation of BMLTA."

People throwing garbage carelessly is already a problem, and it gets worse when people burn the waste, even though it's prohibited. BNP's PR dated 22nd December drew attention to the burning of waste at Gayatri Farms in Bellandur. Vishnu Reddy, Zonal President (BNP) Mahadevapura said, "The Gayatri Farm incident underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive waste management strategy in Bangalore. The BBMP must take immediate and effective measures to address the issue through increased monitoring, strict penalties for offenders, and community awareness programs..."

The PR released on 31st was again about the poor maintenance of existing roads/infrastructure. Specifically, the road between Babusapalya to Horamavu Agara (closer to the manned railway crossing) that is a commuter's nightmare due to the presence of deep potholes and inadequate maintenance. As BNP Leader Subhashini Menon said "...The persistence of these challenges not only compromises the safety of commuters but also reflects poorly on the city's commitment to providing adequate infrastructure for its residents."

You can access all the BNP Press Releases on our Namma BNP website [HERE](#)

BNP in the News

Please click [HERE](#) to see how different Media organisations have supported BNP by publishing articles on our endeavours to resolve civic issues in Bengaluru.

BENGALURU BULLETIN (Important Civic News in Bengaluru)

SWD ENCROACHMENT CLEARANCE

Following directions from the High Court of Karnataka, the clearing of Storm Water Drain (SWD) encroachments has been continuing at a steady pace. Media reports in mid-December, revealed that 62 encroachments were cleared in the Mahadevapura Zone, and 75 in the Yelahanka and Bommanahalli Zones. Around 3,176 encroachments, including new ones, had been identified across the city and of these, 2,322 have been cleared. Of the pending encroachments, 487 have been cleared recently and 155 involve encroachment cases pending in court.

Regarding lake encroachments, Sri Girinath disclosed that out of 202 lakes under the jurisdiction of the corporation, 159 were encroached. Letters have been issued to the relevant departments urging immediate action against lake encroachment.

CRACKDOWN ON TAX DEFAULTERS

In accordance with its warning issued in November 2023, BBMP started sealing off properties of tax defaulters from 12th December 2023. These are mainly commercial entities that had failed to pay property taxes for years even after receiving notices. According to BBMP Special Commissioner Sri. Munish Moudgil, some 8,000 to 10,000 notices had been issued to serial defaulters in Bengaluru who owed BBMP a total of ₹300 crores. BBMP plans to take strict action against individual defaulters too, by seizing cars and/or freezing bank accounts where necessary. The total estimate of big and small property tax defaulters in Bengaluru is estimated to total ₹6 lakhs. This move will encourage owners to pay their taxes on time, increase BBMP revenue, thus facilitating more funding for development work.

NEW RAINWATER HARVESTING SURVEY

Water security remains a serious concern in Bengaluru, given drought-like conditions, dwindling water supply and rainfall deficit. Domain experts have recommended more rainwater harvesting facilities to bridge the water supply-demand gap. Accordingly, the BWSSB has embarked on a new survey to identify those properties that do not have rainwater harvesting facilities.

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The last RWH survey was conducted in 2016 and the data needs validation and updating to work out a water management plan to meet Bengaluru's growing needs. The BWSSB Amendment Act of 2011 required all properties measuring over 60×40 sq feet to have a Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) system. Though this Act had retrospective effect, many older properties have still not complied with the new regulations.

DULT SENDS RIGHT SIGNALS

Commuters in the Central Business District (CBD) of Bengaluru may soon be heaving a sigh of relief. The new adaptive traffic signals installed at 28 key junctions in the CBD area seek to reduce congestion on arterial roads by incorporating pedestrian crossings. The Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) has floated a short-term tender for providing electricity connectivity for this system. The Adaptive System Control Technology (ASCT) uses Japanese MODERATO technology (Management of Origin-Destination-Related Adaptation for Traffic Optimization) to achieve this objective. The ASCT system features an automatic traffic counter and classifier to measure vehicular movement, with a queue-length monitoring system at critical junctions. By making this adaptive signal control system functional, DULT is certainly sending out the right signals for all commuters in the city.

MINEFIELD FOR PEDESTRIANS

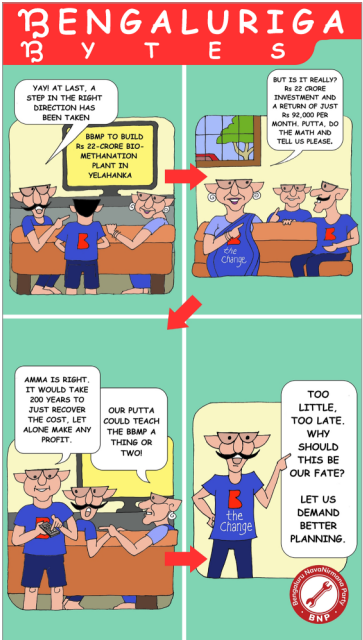
In a horrific accident in November 2023, a young woman and her child died after stepping on a live wire in Kadugodi. Following a public outcry and media condemnation, BESCOM sprung into action, undertaking an urgent survey of such hazardous spots, from 21st to 30th November 2023. Shockingly, as many as 26,022 dangerous spots were identified, 23,187 in Bengaluru alone. It seems that pedestrians in Bengaluru are walking through a potential minefield every day! Media reports in mid-December reveal that since the survey, 8198 problems have been rectified, leaving 16,791 problem areas still to be addressed. Citizens' lives matter and BESCOM must rectify all these problem areas. Errant officials/agencies should also be punished harshly to prevent such horrendous tragedies in future.

BENGALURIGA BYTES (BNP’s own Cartoon Series)

Bengaluriga Bytes (BB), the BNP’s tongue-in-cheek look at life in Bengaluru, draws attention to pressing civic issues that need rectification if Bengaluru is to become a model city.

Enjoy the Instagram reel of December’s cartoon by clicking on the image.
Like, Share, Comment and Follow [namma.bnp on Instagram](#) for more.

If you would like to see them as images, zoom in, or, see all the cartoons [HERE](#)



That's it for now! Look out for more such newsletters every month!
Thank you once again for your unwavering support which is helping BNP to go from strength to strength!
Not yet a member of the BNP? Click [HERE](#) to volunteer and join hands with the BNP – India’s first and only city party!

Stay updated on BNP’s activities. Follow us on



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